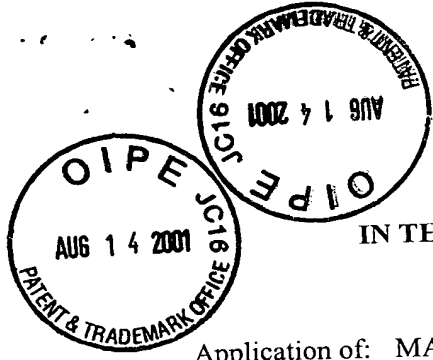


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

RECEIVED
8-20-01
AUG 17 2001

Application of: MASON et al.

Serial No.: 09/536,552

Filed: March 28, 2000

For: IDENTIFICATION OF A NOVEL RETROVIRUS
ASSOCIATED WITH PRIMARY SCLEROSING
CHOLANGITIS AND AUTOIMMUNE HEPATITIS

Art Unit: 1635

Examiner: R. Schwartzman

Attorney Docket No.: 9926-003

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

RESPONSE TO EXAMINER'S COMMUNICATION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

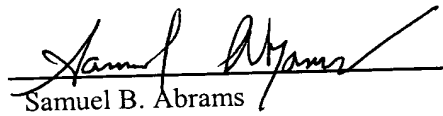
Sir:

In response to an Office Action mailed July 27, 2001, and in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(c)(1)(ii), Applicants hereby submit Exhibit A, a marked up version of the claims and Exhibit B, a clean copy of the claims pending as of the date of the previous amendment which was filed on February 22, 2001.

No fee is believed to be due in connection with this transmittal. Should any fee be required, please charge the required fees to Pennie & Edmonds LLP Deposit Account No. 16-1150. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Date August 14, 2001


Samuel B. Abrams

30,605
(Reg. No.)

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Enclosure